

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 EB-03 PM-03 DODE-00 L-02

DRC-01 /057 W

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R 120329Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4263

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 6939

LIMDIS

FOR HUMMEL FROM AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: GOP REQUEST USE VOA TRANSMITTERS

REF: STATE 116054

1. DURING CALL BY CPAO ON PRESS AND INFORMATION SECRETARY TATAD ON OTHER MATTERS, I INSTRUCTED HIM TO INQUIRE DISCREETLY INTO SPECIFICS OF MFA NOTE.

2. CPAO'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT TATAD WAS CAUGHT SOMEWHAT UNAWARES. ALTHOUGH TATAD KNEW THAT NOTE HAD BEEN SENT (AND MAY HAVE IN FACT SIGNED REQUEST TO MFA) HE SEEMED HAZY ABOUT DETAILS.

3. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS ELICITED FROM TATAD:

A. GOP REQUEST IS FOR FIVE HOURS DAILY. (NOTE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER FOR FIVE HOURS DAILY OR WEEKLY.)

B. ASKED REPEATEDLY WHAT COUNTRIES GOP WISHED TO BROADCAST TO, TATAD, AFTER HEDGING QUESTION, FINALLY SAID TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, "HE THOUGHT." (IN SEPARATE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVERSATION WITH USIS STAFFER, DE LOS REYES, ACTING

HEAD BUREAU OF BROADCAST IN DPI, SAID EMPHATICALLY THAT INTENT WAS TO BROADCAST TO U.S.)

C. REQUEST WHICH LED TO FORMAL NOTE DID NOT COME FROM TOP (PALACE OR TATAD) DOWN BUT FROM TECHNICIAN/ MIDDLE-LEVEL ADMINISTRATORS UP.

D. TATAD SAID HE THOUGHT REQUEST AROSE OUT OF JURISDICTIONAL/STATUS RIVALRY BETWEEN BUREAU OF BROADCASTS (UNDER DPI) AND NATIONAL MEDIA PRODUCTION CENTER (UNDER OFFICE OF PRESIDENCY). HE FURTHER INDICATED GREG CENDANA (NMPC HEAD) HAD DETAILS, BUT WHEN ASKED WHETHER WE SHOULD CONSULT CENDANA OR LET HIM WORK OUT SPECIFICS OF GOP REQUEST, HE SAID HE (TATAD) WOULD SORT IT OUT.

E. DURING DISCUSSION JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTE TATAD MENTIONED THAT RADIO CONTROL OFFICE, WHICH ALLOCATES FREQUENCIES AND APPROVES REQUESTS FOR INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL BROADCASTING FROM PHILIPPINES, WAS ALREADY SENSITIVE ABOUT EXTENT EXTERNAL BROADCASTING "BY FOREIGNERS," AND MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ELIMINATE SUCH BROADCASTING AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL POLICY.

4. IT APPARENT FROM ABOVE THAT GOP RIGHT HAND UNAWARE WHAT LEFT IS DOING. BELIEVE ON BALANCE BEST COURSE NOW IS TO LET TATAD SORT THINGS OUT AND GET BACK TO US OR POSSIBLY FINESSE MATTER ENTIRELY IN ASIAN WAY.

5. ATTITUDE OF RADIO CONTROL OFFICE, IF ACCURATELY REFLECTED, MAY BODE ILL FOR U.S. PLANS EXPAND PHILIPPINE-BASED TRANSMISSION CAPABILITIES TO COMPENSATE FOR OKINAWA PHASE-OUT. HOWEVER, AGAIN THINK BEST LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.

6. CPAO-INDICATED TO TATAD THAT WE REQUIRED SPECIFICS BEFORE RESPONDING MEANINGFULLY TO NOTE BECAUSE OF TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES BROADCASTING TO CERTAIN PARTS OF WORLD WITH OUR PRESENT FACILITIES.

7. CPAO LUNCHING WITH TATAD FRIDAY, AND TATAD MAY BE BETTER BRIEFED THEN.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRANSMITTERS, RADIO BROADCASTING, RADIO STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA06939
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740150-1039
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740653/aaaabsyx.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: STATE 116054
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP REQUEST USE VOA TRANSMITTERS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, VOA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005